

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

WFO FILE NO. 74-94

REPORT MADE AT <b>WASHINGTON, D. C.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>MAY 12 1949</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/2, 4, 17; 4/5-7, 27, 29/49</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>EDWARD F. HUMMER EFH:EL</b>
TITLE: <b>JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, was., Etal ALGER HISS</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>PERJURY ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY - R</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Persons residing in Washington, D. C. who were mentioned in letter of Mrs. VICTOR (KATHERINE WILLS) PERLO as being members of the Communist Party Underground group in Washington interviewed. ROSA CLINTON identified as present member of Communist Party, stated that she knew some of the other persons mentioned by Mrs. PERLO in connection with her employment or as members of her union. She declined to answer question whether she herself was member of Communist Party. HELEN FULLER states she is acquainted with most persons named in letter but has no positive proof they were members of Communist Party although they consistently followed the CP line. Does not know ALGER HISS or WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. GERALD GRAZE and wife RUTH GORDON GRAZE, Government employees and subjects of LGE investigations, claimed to know some of individuals as result of Government employment but both denied any knowledge of any CP Underground Group. Dr. BENJAMIN WHININGER states he knows several individuals named in letter but states he knows them professionally in the course of treating them or their wives for mental disturbances, including KATHERINE WILLS PERLO. States he has no knowledge of CP activities of anyone mentioned. Background information concerning LARRY BEIL GOREMAN set out as requested by SAAG.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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- 3 - Bureau
- 3 - New York
- 1 - SAAG T. J. DONAGAN, New York
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Former co-worker and associate of ELEANOR NELSON SOYRING interviewed with negative results as to any Communist Party activities or recruiting for Soviet espionage apparatus. Further interviews to determine ALGER HISS' presence at Longview, Accokeek, Maryland, on July 4, 1937, made with negative results.

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REFERENCE: Bureau File 74-1333.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

INTERVIEWS WITH PERSONS NAMED IN  
LETTER OF KATHERINE WILLS PERLO:

By letter dated January 19, 1949, the Bureau requested that all persons mentioned in the letter addressed to the President of the United States, and subsequently ascertained to be written by KATHERINE WILLS PERLO, be interviewed in instant matter. This letter purported to set out the names of individuals known to Mrs. PERLO to be members of a Communist Party Underground Group in Washington, D. C.

ROSE CLINTON

Miss CLINTON stated that she was employed in Washington in the Government from 1932 until 1936 when she left town. She returned to Washington in 1940 and resided here until 1942. Her third stay in Washington began in 1945 and continues to the present.

Miss CLINTON stated that she was first employed in Washington by the NRA, where she met JOHN ABT. She stated that she knew ABT as a result of her Government employment.

She was asked if she knew ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN and she stated that she knew him as an employee of the Labor Advisory Board where he was employed as an Economist. Miss CLINTON stated that she worked under SILVERMAN on several projects. Miss CLINTON stated that SILVERMAN was brought into the Labor Advisory Board by SIDNEY HILLMAN and she, Miss CLINTON, worked for HILLMAN doing stenographic work. When asked if she knew whether JOHN ABT or GEORGE SILVERMAN were members of the Communist Party or engaged in Communist

activities, Miss CLINTON stated that she did not know whether these two individuals were members of the party or not.

She was also asked whether she knew ~~CHARLES J. COE~~ and his wife, ~~ROSE COE~~, ~~WALTER SASSAMAN~~, or ~~BILL SHERWOOD~~, and she replied that she did not. She knew ~~HENRY RHINE~~ as a union member.

She was asked whether she knew ~~VICTOR FERLO~~, ~~NATHAN WITT~~, ~~HENRY HILL COLLINS~~, and ~~CHARLES KRAMER~~, and she advised that she knew most of these persons as former employees of NRA. Again she stated she did not know whether they were members of the Communist Party.

Miss CLINTON stated that she knew these individuals also as union members and attended union meetings at their various homes. She denied, however, that these meetings were Communist Party meetings. She was told emphatically that the FBI was not interested in union activities or the union affiliations of any individual.

Miss CLINTON was asked whether she herself was a member of the Communist Party and she answered by stating that she thought the question was irrelevant. She stated that she was not on trial and saw no reason for answering the question.

Miss CLINTON stated that she did not know either ~~ALGER HISS~~ or ~~WHITTAKER CHAMBERS~~.

~~HELEN FULLER~~

Miss FULLER advised that she knew and was well acquainted with JOHN ABT as formerly residing in Washington and being employed by the Department of Justice, the LaFollette Committee, and later, General Counsel of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. Likewise, she knew ABT to be closely associated with ~~LEE PRESSMAN~~.

She did not know ~~ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN~~, ~~ROSE CLINTON~~, ~~CHARLES J. COE~~ or his wife, ~~ROSE COE~~.

~~MRS. WILLIAM SHERWOOD~~

Concerning ~~WILLIAM SHERWOOD~~ and his wife, ~~BARBARA~~, Miss FULLER stated that ~~SHERWOOD~~ did some work for her at the New Republic after June, 1941, at which time he was most cooperative. She knew him for approximately one year thereafter. Miss FULLER stated that she did not know him prior to 1941, and is, therefore, unable to state whether he followed the party line during the ~~HITLER-STALIN~~ non-aggression pact.

Miss FULLER was asked if she knew HENRY RHINE and his wife, and she replied that she did not know him too well but did know that he and his wife followed the Communist Party line at the time.

Concerning VICTOR PERLO, Miss FULLER advised that she first knew him at the WPA, later at OPA, and still later at the Treasury Department. After the war and shortly after HENRY WALLACE became Editor of the New Republic Magazine, Miss FULLER stated that VICTOR PERLO sold an article on the MARSHALL Plan to one of "our more gullible editors in New York" which was published and which later caused much embarrassment to the New Republic. Miss FULLER stated that, of course, PERLO's article was opposed to the Marshall Plan.

Miss FULLER further advised that she knew NATHAN WITT and believed him to be in a group of individuals who were pro-Communist and who always followed the Communist Party line. In this connection, Miss FULLER stated that even though she was aware NATHAN WITT, PERLO, and ABT followed the Communist Party line, at no time did she have any proof that they were card-holding members of the Communist Party or attended any meetings of the Communist Party, and further had no information that they might be engaged in Soviet espionage.

Concerning HENRY HILL COLLINS, Jr., Miss FULLER stated that she is well acquainted with him; that COLLINS still follows the Communist Party line. Miss FULLER stated that she also knew COLLINS' former wife, who was SUSAN B. ANTHONY II. Miss FULLER stated that she did not believe SUSAN B. ANTHONY II, who was also known as a follower of the Communist Party line, had influenced HENRY HILL COLLINS. In fact, COLLINS had the stronger character of the two, and if COLLINS followed the party line, it was because of his own will and his own thinking. Miss FULLER described his wife, SUSAN B. ANTHONY II as being a very emotional girl.

Concerning <sup>ALAS</sup>CHARLES KRAMER and his wife <sup>KRAMER</sup>MILDRED, Miss FULLER stated that she knew him while connected with a Committee of Congress. She further knew KRAMER to be associated with the same group as WITT, COLLINS, PERLO and ABT.

Concerning SALLY RINGE and LENORE THOMAS, Miss FULLER stated that she knew these two girls well and often visited their place at Accokeek, Maryland. She stated that it was "most unlikely" that SALLY RINGE or LENORE THOMAS were members of the Communist Party and stated people flocked to their home on weekends at Accokeek for a social outing rather than for any political purpose. It is to be noted, however, that SALLY RINGE has admitted to Bureau Agents that she was a member of the Communist Party.

Concerning LENORE THOMAS, Miss FULLER stated that she was a political minded person but never knew her to follow at all times the Communist Party line, but Miss FULLER stated Miss THOMAS could very well have followed it as she, Miss FULLER, was not that close to her.

Miss FULLER did not know RUTH GORDON ~~GRAZE~~, or her husband, GERALD GRAZE.

~~LEN DE CAUX~~ was well known to Miss FULLER, who stated that he followed the Communist Party line at all times.

Concerning MARY BELL ~~GORMAN~~, Miss FULLER stated that she knew her vaguely and not well enough to say whether she was in the Communist group or not.

Miss FULLER did not know HENRY JULIAN ~~WADLEIGH~~, or WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE or WARD FIGHAN or FELIX INSLERMAN.

Miss FULLER stated that she knew ELEANOR NELSON to be in the Trade Union Movement and further knew her to be in the general Communist group around HENRY RHINE. Miss FULLER stated that she got to know ELEANOR NELSON better, however, after 1941, when she, Miss FULLER, was associated with an interventibnist group which group sponsored meetings at Uline Arena and elsewhere. At the time RUSSIA had been over-run by Germany and she stated that ELEANOR NELSON helped the group out materially in having the United Federal Workers Union cooperate in sponsoring various rallies. The rallies had for their purpose the furnishing of military aid to the allies, especially Britain and Russia.

Concerning WHITTAKER CHAMBERS and ALGER HISS, Miss FULLER stated that oddly enough she had never met ALGER HISS although she had heard of him in Washington as being a rising star in the Government service. She had never met WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. Miss FULLER stated that since she had never met ALGER HISS, she never saw him at the residence of SALLY RINGE and LENORE THOMAS at Accokeek, Maryland, although he might have been there.

Miss FULLER stated that while she never met ALGER HISS she knew from hearsay that he was "quite liberal" and knew further that he associated with some of the persons she identified above. She stated, however, that the revelation that he was engaged in espionage was quite a surprise to her and she can go along with the accusations except for the espionage part of it.

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Miss [redacted] stated that while the [redacted] was [redacted] with the [redacted]